It was also resolved that since a large number of thermal stations within the State sector are running at a PLF below 40% immediate Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) including Life Extension (LE) would need to be undertaken. Similarly R&M / LE would required to be undertaken for old hydel power plants on priority.

Development of Electronic Warfare System

†*736. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Defence scientists are making efforts to develop a comprehensive Electronic Warfare system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the said system is likely to be developed; and

(d) the total estimated amount to be spent towards the development of the system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in partnership with the users, is developing Electronic Warfare (EW) systems Samyukta for the Army and Sangraha for the Navy. These systems are in advanced stages of development. DRDO has already developed and operationalised EW system Tempest for the Air Force.

(c) Development of Samyukta and Sangraha is planned to be completed by 2002.

(d) The total estimated amount to be spent towards the development and induction of Samyukta and Sangraha systems is Rs. 955 crore.

Solar Energy in Bellary District

*737. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Bellary District in Karnataka is an ideal place to take up pilot project to tap solar energy as the temperature is always high;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to draw up a pilot project to tap solar energy in Bellary District; and

(c) whether Karnataka Government has sent any proposal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Bellary District is among the areas in the country which receive a high level of solar radiation. There is a good potential for the use of solar energy in such areas through both the solar thermal and photovoltaic routes. Under the programmes of the Central and State Governments, about 1000 solar lanterns, a few solar pumps, street lights, solar water heaters and solar cookers have been installed in the District. No proposal pertaining to Bellary District has been received from the Karnataka Government. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has asked the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), which is the nodal agency in Karnataka, to develop proposals for the wider utilization of solar energy is this district.

Implementation of NFBS and NMBS

†*738. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) are being implemented properly in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to ensure strict implementation of these schemes by the States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (d) The National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) are; by and large, being well implemented in most States. The information showing State-wise position in respect of allocation, release, expenditure and physical achievement for the year 1999-2000 are given in the Annexure for the NFBS and NMBS [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 130]

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.